

In the months leading up to the Normandy Invasion, Rudder's elite group of Army Rangers underwent rigorous training in preparation for the part that they would play for the invasion named Overlord at Normandy.

Colonel Rudder put his 2nd Ranger Battalion through hell in order to prepare them for their mission at Pointe du Hoc. He made them march in full gear for over 20 miles. He had them train in hand to hand combat, climb rope ladders without safety harnesses and endure difficult amphibious training.

The success that the Rangers had on D-Day was a direct result of Rudder's intense personal involvement with their training. The amount of effort and dedication he put forth into the training is why the troops were able to manage the chaos and complete their mission. Rudder made sure that every man was prepared to do the impossible.

James Earl Rudder was born in the small Texas town of Eden, about 45 miles southeast of San Angelo, in 1910. After graduating from high school, he played football for two years at Tarleton State. He then transferred to Texas A&M in 1930. He graduated in 1932 with a degree in education. After graduation he joined the US Army Reserves as a second lieutenant.

In 1937, he married Margaret Williamson (who graduated from the University of Texas), and together they had five children. In 1941, he was doing what he loved, coaching football, when duty called.

These brave men who cracked the Nazi grip on Europe began with the liberation of France 70 years ago. From there, the Rangers went on to fight in the Battle of the Bulge and U.S. forces on to Germany. Nothing like it had ever been done before in history. Over 150,000 Allied soldiers hit the beaches during the assault landings on the 6th of June. By the 4th of July, over 1 million joined in the invasion force through Normandy. It was a miraculous feat for 1944.

Colonel Rudder received many military honors including the second highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross. He was a full Colonel by the end of the war and was promoted to Brigadier General of the U.S. Army Reserves in 1954 and Major General in 1957.

After the war, Rudder returned to Texas. He remained a highly successful and distinguished Texan until his death.

He served as Mayor of Brady for 6 years, visited the White House frequently—advising Lyndon Baines Johnson on many military issues and was hired to clean up the corruption going on in the General Land Office.

Col. Rudder became president of Texas A&M University in 1959 and president of the entire A&M system in 1965, holding both positions until his death in 1970.

The boys of D-Day came; they liberated; and some went home. Over 9,000 other GIs are buried at the top of the cliffs of Normandy France. As we reflect on those Rangers on D-Day, 70 years ago, and the Texan who led them into battle, Lt. Col. James Earl Rudder, we once again marvel at the lives of those we call the Greatest Generation of Americans. And that's just the way it is.

FIT FOR LIFE INTRODUCTION

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, May is Health and Fitness Month, a critical time to encourage our communities to live healthier lives. It is also an appropriate time to highlight an issue that, in recent years, has greatly impacted the physical and economic health of our country.

Nearly one third of all children in this country are overweight or obese—a rate that has tripled over the past fifty years. Largely due to obesity and obesity-related diseases, this is the first generation of Americans that are likely to be less healthy and have shorter life expectancies than their parents.

Though this is a nationwide epidemic, childhood obesity disproportionately affects low-income and minority populations. Earlier this year, scientists touted some significant progress in the fight against childhood obesity among the youngest children, however, African American and Hispanic Children experienced a smaller reduction in obesity rates and remain three and five times more likely than Caucasian children to be obese.

To address this troubling epidemic, I introduced the Fit for Life Act of 2014, which increases access to healthy foods, expands prevention and treatment options for low-income children, and increases opportunities for physical activity for our youth. Further, this critical legislation supports mobile healthy food programs, broadens access to healthy foods for children in child care, increases coverage for obesity prevention and treatment options for low-income children, and expands opportunities to take part in joint use agreements, opening existing facilities in low-income areas to community use.

This country cannot afford for our children to continue to feed into the cycle of obesity. We must begin to aggressively combat this epidemic before it puts more of our children at risk.

I encourage my colleagues to stand with me in this fight and cosponsor the Fit for Life Act.

HONORING IOWA CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR MARY ELLEN MASKE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mary Ellen Maske on being selected as the Iowa Central Office Administrator of the Year. Mary Ellen serves as the deputy superintendent of the Cedar Rapids Community Schools in my district. Mary Ellen was selected because of her leadership in establishing Professional Learning Communities and her efforts to create school-community partnerships for parents and students in the community.

Mary Ellen began her career as an elementary school teacher in Iowa City. She also previously served as an executive administrator in Cedar Rapids. She received her bachelor's

degree in elementary education and her master's degree in educational administration, both from the University of Iowa.

Mary Ellen was selected for this award by a committee of Iowa central office administrators. Mary Ellen has proven that she is a leader at her school and throughout the Cedar Rapids community. I'm proud to call her a constituent, and congratulate her on all of her success.

COMMENDING LOCAL 2014 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE FOURTH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 13 graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishment and for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Air Force. I also express my appreciation to Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia for providing this opportunity to be among the first to say to each of these young men and women: "Thank you."

I have had the privilege of working with Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia since its inception in 2011. That year my office was contacted by one of the founding parents who upon learning that her son and other students at his school who had decided to enlist would not receive any recognition during graduation, joined with other parents to organize the first enlistee recognition ceremony of its kind in the region. The first ceremony recognized a total of 9 students. This year, we will recognize 129 young men and women who have chosen to serve our country in uniform.

With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the Nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately, and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following graduates on their enlistment in the United States Air Force:

Joshua Gragg, Jaren Gregory, Erin Harmon, Skylar Johnson, Calvin Kim, Alan Menacho, Joshua Mims, Patrick Moon, Christopher Pidgeon, Shaun Reardon, Cassidy Smith, Carlos Soto-Flores, and Jackson Sullivan.